

CTTAB 2003Minutes

February 11, 2003

Meeting Minutes

City of Seattle, Board Room, 27th Floor

Key Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Board Members

Rhonda Allison

Brad Stilwell

Mike Donlin

Harriet Wasserman

Shannan Frisbee

Melinda Partin

Guests: Mike Roberge

Justin St. Clair

Jerry Whiting

Staff

Delia Burke

Tony Perez

Mary Pat DiLeva

Sylvia Shiroyama

Jill Novik

Casey Corr, Mayor's Staff

I. Introductions, Announcements, Agenda Approval; Review of Minutes:

Mike Donlin sent an email to Patty Murray's office regarding CTC funding; he received a response indicating that CTCs were funded for 2003.

The January 14, 2003 minutes were approved as written.

II. Presentation: Mayor Nickels' email and Gates Foundation Grant:

The Mayor's office is using its website to build citizen awareness of the Mayor's goals. If a citizen is interested in more information on a topic addressed on the website, there will be hyperlinks to take them to sites with additional information. As part of this process they have installed a constituent email response system that is used by many elected officials including the Governor and some members of Congress. The system gives the Mayor's office more flexibility in managing the emails they receive from the public including tracking issues, department responsiveness and volume.

The Mayor's office wrote a letter of support for Puget Sound Alliance for Community Technology's application for a Gates Foundation. Casey will send Sylvia the names of the youth groups involved.

Casey announced that the Mayor's CTTAB appointments are Ann Robinson, Jason Bennett and Michael Daum.

III. Technology Matching Fund:

A press release about the 2003 technology matching fund grant cycle has been sent out; it is mentioned on the City's website and in the DON newsletter and Brainstorm. TMF staff want to spread the word and build enthusiasm while tempering expectations because the fund has less money – only \$50,000 --available for grants this year. The main changes in this year's guidelines are funding to enhance programs of an existing technology center and encouraging groups to partner. CTTAB will vote on grants at the April meeting.

IV. Committee Reports:

E-government – Brad announced that station manager Gary Gibson asked CTTAB for feedback on The Seattle Channel launch, such as whether the content is appropriate. Arts programming was discussed, including content and first amendment issues. Rhonda, Melinda, and Shannon supported local arts programming and that The Seattle Channel could provide an avenue for an important and underrepresented area. As the City supports local art; it is appropriate for the public to have greater exposure. It was suggested that CTTAB let Gary know the Board's feedback. *Brad will write up comments and bring them to the March meeting.*

Technology Issues – PSACT's Gates Foundation grant application was submitted, with 17 organizations having joined. Some encouragement and feedback were given and parts of the application rewritten and strengthened as a result.

The committee will look at developing guidelines for the remainder of the 500 AT&T modems. The committee will consider expanding the program to include non-profit organizations.

In reference to Robin Oppenheimer's email about having an outside consultant, Steve Hawley, discuss renewal at the next meeting, Stilwell asked whether such a practice was unusual. Tony expressed several concerns in regard to such an action: first, it is premature to begin discussing renewal. Second, when the City hires a consultant, sometime in 2004, to work on renewal, the process will be open and competitive. To have Hawley present renewal information to CTTAB, and create an impression that he had an official capacity could create a problem with the appearance of fairness to both him and to the competition. It is also important to understand that the

renewal strategy is solely a function of City staff.

Acknowledging Perez' points and also recognizing Robin's interest in having Hawley's expertise, Shannon suggested that Hawley could be invited to give the Board a short update as a citizen, not as a consultant, on future technology. *Brad agreed to contact Hawley with that message and, if Hawley is agreeable, to include him in the March agenda.*

VI. Cable Office Report on AT&T Domain Name Change:

In an article in last week's Seattle Times about AT&T's migration to Comcast.net and in initial discussions with AT&T/Comcast staff, they indicated that they would not guarantee to forward email beyond 60 days. In briefings with both the Mayor and Council, both agreed that 60 days was inadequate and asked Comcast to the next Council meeting with a plan explaining how they will avoid the pitfalls experienced with the migration from excite@home to attbi.

At Council, Comcast agreed to continue email and links through 2004, with a multi-notice process to begin this month. They indicated that the transition should be smoother as they are moving to an established network and they are phasing it in across the country, rather than all at once. Should a customer's user name already be taken on the new domain, however, they will have to pick a new user name.

Lynne Master's position has been advertised. We hope to have someone hired by April.

We will know on Thursday what the FCC rulings are on unbundled network elements. Old phone companies and new phone companies were supposed to create competition but the new companies need access to the local phone companies' lines; there's been litigation on this issue.

We received a letter from AT&T initiating the renewal process; the next step is to write back confirming receipt of letter. The Cable Office will shortly develop a work plan/schedule for the renewal process identifying where CTTAB can help. It is expected that CTTAB will be asked to help identify stakeholders to be polled for the needs assessment, as well as serve as a stakeholder group itself.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.